

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 13, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BORLAND, made the following

REPORT :

[To accompany bill S. No. 253.]

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred "A bill to grant to the State of Arkansas certain unsold lands subject to overflow, for purposes of internal improvement, education, and other purposes, in said State," report:

It appears from the records of the General Land Office, that the State of Arkansas comprises an area of 52,198 square miles, or 33,406,478.32 acres. Of this, up to the 1st day of January last, 32,154,763.12 acres had been surveyed, and 1,251,715 acres remained unsurveyed. Of the surveyed lands, 29,982,204.70 acres had been proclaimed for sale, 2,875,540.03 acres had been sold, and nearly 6,000,000 acres included in reservations, grants, donations, private land claims, &c., leaving about 24,000,000 acres unsold, and still the property of the United States. Of this latter, or unsold area, now public land, 4,807,673 acres, or about one-fifth part of it, is marked on the surveyor's plats, and designated in the books of the land office, as "swamp land—wet and unfit for cultivation." The 1,251,715 acres remaining unsurveyed, by a proportional estimate, will give 250,343 acres of "swamp land," which, added to that already ascertained, will make, in round numbers, about 5,000,000 acres of that description of land, or rather more than one-seventh part of the whole area of the State.

The terms "swamp lands—wet and unfit for cultivation," although suitable as a technicality for the surveyors, and sufficiently accurate to guide the operations of the land offices, require, in this connexion, some explanation to convey a true idea of the character and condition of the lands they indicate. In common parlance, "swamp land" would be understood to be that in the midst of which water rose up in sufficient quantity, and remained on or near the surface long enough, to keep the land "wet and unfit for cultivation." Of this, many and striking examples are found in several of the middle and southern States, as the great Dismal Swamp in Virginia and North Carolina, the Okefonoke swamp in Georgia,

and the Everglades in Florida, not to mention other instances. But with the "swamp lands," so called, in Arkansas, the circumstances are very different. These do not give rise to the water which makes them "wet and unfit for cultivation;" nor do they receive it, directly, in the form of rain. In their whole extent, they have very few springs, either great or small; and all the water they receive, either in the form of rain or from their own few springs, finds ample and ready outlet through the natural drains which channel and indent their surface. It is from without, and not from within, they receive the floods which give them their character, and which should, for that reason, confer upon them the appropriate appellation of overflowed, or *inundated lands*. From the rivers touching the borders, and intersecting the main body of these lands, the water overflows, at certain seasons of the year, and covers them to a depth ranging from a few inches to several feet, and remains upon them for a time varying from a few days to many weeks. These rivers, commencing on the eastern border and taken in the order of their occurrence, are the Mississippi, for more than 300 miles; the White, for more than 200 miles; the Black, for more than 150 miles; the Arkansas, for more than 400 miles; the Saline, for more than 150 miles; the Ouachita, for more than 200 miles; the Little Missouri, for about 100 miles; and the Red river, for some 200 miles; making, in the aggregate, a line of water courses, touching and intersecting the State, more than 2,000 miles in length, along which the lands are inundated, to a greater or less extent, never less than once, and generally several times during the year; and embracing, as already shown, 5,000,000 acres, or more than one-seventh part of the whole area of the State. In this enumeration, the St. Francis river has been omitted, because its own waters never overflow its banks. It runs, as will be seen on the map, through an immense body of overflowed land, and from its channel much of the water which does this mischief is directly poured out; yet this is not the water of the St. Francis proper; but it comes from the Mississippi, covers all the intervening country, fills the St. Francis to overflowing, and thus inundates the land bordering upon that beautiful stream from its sources to its mouth. The St. Francis is fully competent to discharge all the water which rises from its springs or falls into it in the form of rain, and, thus, to drain effectually all the low land in its vicinity. It is only when surcharged by a flood from the Mississippi, that it fails to perform its natural function of an emuncatory for the superabundant waters of the country through which it meanders; and becomes, in appearance, the source of the very evil it was obviously intended, and, if left to itself, is fully competent to prevent. The same remarks may be made, in part, of other rivers in the interior—particularly of the Red, the White, the Black, and the Arkansas; for much of their overflow is caused by the Mississippi. But to the St. Francis they are peculiarly and altogether applicable; for it never overflows from any other cause.

The effect of this overflow, upon these lands, is seriously injurious through their whole extent, and in most instances entirely de-

structive of their value. Indeed, as a consequence, they are reported by the surveyors as "unfit for cultivation;" and, therefore, they remain unsold and unsaleable; and so they must ever remain, until their character and condition shall be changed by some means which will secure them against overflow. Nor is this injurious effect restricted to these particular lands. It extends, in a great degree, to all the other lands in the State, by association; materially lessening their value, and delaying their sale and settlement. Thus, these 5,000,000 acres are withheld directly from the productive area of the State; and, indirectly, a corresponding loss of value is sustained upon every acre of the remaining 28,000,000; a loss that falls, alike and in proportion to their respective interest, upon the general government, the State government, the institutions of learning, and private citizens, immediately as land proprietors, and consequently in every relation connected with the ownership, occupancy, or cultivation of the soil. The amount of this loss cannot be estimated with precision; but, so far as it diminishes the value of the lands, its proportion among the parties named is found in the number of acres respectively owned by them. Thus, the general government being the proprietor of at least three-fourths of the soil, must be set down as the sufferer to the amount of three-fourths of the loss. And the extent and seriousness of the injury, if not a precise estimate of the pecuniary loss, sustained by every interest in this connexion, may be ascertained by a cursory examination of the circumstances which attend it.

As already stated, the overflow of the rivers occurs at least once, and generally several times during each year; covering the lands within the scope indicated to a depth ranging from a few inches to several feet, and remaining upon them for a period varying from a few days to many weeks. In every aspect in which such an occurrence may be considered, it is injurious in its consequences. The overflow which took place in Missouri and Illinois, extending into Arkansas, a few years ago, is fresh in the recollection of all. The damage done in portions of these States was incalculably great; and from the effects of which neither the people nor the States have yet fully recovered. Farms were overflowed, dwellings were swept away, lives lost, and many families reduced from affluence to want. Speaking of the overflow of the spring of 1844, the memorial of the Arkansas legislature describes it as "driving off the settlers, sweeping away their improvements, spreading desolation and ruin over the whole face of the overflowed districts; so that many of the settlers within its scope who had purchased land, have abandoned them in despair, many others will do so unless protected from similar disasters, and the whole of this rich and beautiful country will become wholly, as it is now mainly, a useless, unsaleable, and uncultivated waste." The quantity and character of the sediment, brought by the overflowing waters, destroyed many plantations. They remain yet covered with the sand deposited on that occasion, and are as barren as the deserts of Zahara. Such injuries, though less extensive, are not uncommon on the banks of the Mississippi and its tributaries. Annually some of the finest plantations are

overflowed, the crops are greatly damaged or wholly destroyed, and in many cases the soil is left covered with a coating of sand several inches in thickness, and sufficient to render it a barren waste for many years. In this respect, the rivers in question differ materially from the Nile, to which, in the character and effect of their overflows, they have been compared. The overflows of the Nile are necessary to supply the water for subsequent irrigation, without which the fertile valley through which it runs could not be successfully cultivated. This is not needed or desired on our rivers. The presence of the water, except for the purposes of navigation, is always to be deprecated. On the Nile it is indispensable to cultivation. On our rivers it is always injurious to cultivation. Besides, the slimy and unctuous deposits of the Nile are immediately fertilizing to the soil, inviting the husbandman to "cast his bread upon the waters," while they yet cover the fields, and promising him a rich return "after many days." On the contrary, while the deposit of the Mississippi and its tributaries is never desired for the fertility it may confer, it is often of a character, and in quantity, to destroy the producing qualities of extensive tracts. This effect, alone, of the overflow erects it into an evil of great magnitude and disastrous consequences. Its influence upon the navigableness of the rivers, themselves, is of equal, if not greater, magnitude, and still more injurious results. All our western rivers have soft, alluvial, sandy bottoms, easily and frequently changing, alternately into channels and bars, under the action of the current, especially during floods and overflows. They have, also, soft, alluvial banks, which, when overflowed for any length of time, (as often happens in spring and summer,) become saturated with the water; and yielding to the combined force of the weight and rapidity of the current, are broken down, and swept off. How often are these occurrences witnessed! How disastrous have they not proven, alike to the planters on the bank of the river, and to the vessels which navigate it! Not a flood has ever come and gone, without changing, in some degree, the channels of the rivers; often in a manner to defy the skill of the most experienced pilots. Not a season has ever passed, without despoiling some of the river farms of their fair proportions. These are no trivial events, whether estimated in regard to the amount of property immediately destroyed, or the general detriment they inflict upon the whole business of the country. They unsettle the tenure by which property is possessed, and render uncertain and hazardous the channels of communication with the rest of the world; invading, thus, the foundation of organized communities, by depriving them of that element—a fixed point of departure, a solid fulcrum for the lever of enterprise and exertion—without which no individual undertaking was ever certainly successful, nor the career of any people ever truly prosperous.

No one has resided near these rivers, even within the last five years, without having forced upon his own observation the destruction of very many valuable steamers, and their still more valuable cargoes, from this cause alone. No one has travelled upon these

rivers, without seeing innumerable traces of this single cause, in the form of almost impassable sand bars and deposits of timber, where none existed before; in the wrecks of noble steamers; in the mutilated fields; and, in fine plantations literally cut in two, and the channel of the river running where, but a few weeks before, the cotton plant was growing in fruitful luxuriance! These obstructions and hazards of navigation are attended by a greatly increased expense of transportation, as exhibited in enormous freights and excessive rates of insurance. On the Arkansas river, where this cause is at work in its most serious aspect, it is said, on good authority, that not only the charge for freights is enormous, but that *the rate of insurance is the double of that charged upon the eastern rivers, or upon the sea!* Nor is this the last of the evil effects of so extensive and potent a cause. The health of the country suffers, as a direct consequence of these overflows, to an extent and degree commensurate with their geographical bound. The miasmatic exhalations from such a surface of turbid waters, as is thus presented, cannot be contemplated, even in the light of theory, without the saddest forebodings of their pernicious influences; and actual experience has realized even more and worse results than theory ventured to predict. Nor are these noxious vapors limited in their influence to the particular districts, (wide as they are,) from whose surface they rise; but, under a law of their nature, they rise rapidly from their source, reach a certain elevation, and there, gathering together, they compose an atmosphere of their own; and then, upon the wings of the wind, spread over all the adjacent country, for many miles around. In this way, not only are the extensive overflowed districts made unhealthful, but their baleful influence is visited upon the higher lands by which they are surrounded, and injury is inflicted throughout a circle almost limitless in its sweep.

Thus it is seen that the effects of these overflowings of the western rivers are felt, in serious injury, by every interest of the country. Serious obstacles, and, in many instances, impassible barriers, are opposed by them to immigration, and, consequently, to the sale and settlement of the lands within the range of their influence. The land proprietor suffers a depreciation in the value of his freehold; the planter and farmer, in the injury, and, sometimes, total destruction of their crops; the merchant, in the heavy drawbacks upon his trade, in the form of vexatious delays, enormous freights, and double insurance; the navigator, in the uncertainty of his pursuit, and the frequent loss of his vessels; the individual citizen, in that worst of all privations—the loss of health.

If he who causes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before, may be justly regarded as a benefactor of his race, what shall be said of him who would advocate a policy which would be the reverse of this? Or, what measure of reproach would be due to one who would pursue a policy favoring, if not actually producing, the direful consequences to every interest of society which have been exhibited? The let-alone policy hitherto pursued by the general government, with regard to these overflowed lands, is not merely negative in its character, by withholding a

good, but it is positively injurious, by reason of its many evil consequences. It not only suffers these lands to remain unreclaimed, and worse than useless, like plague spots upon the body of the State, but, by the overflows which are consequent upon such policy, it often causes not one blade of grass to grow where many grew before; converting fertile fields, teeming with the rich rewards of the farmer's toil, into barren wastes of sand, or uninhabitable marshes.

There are no data of a sufficiently authentic character to enable your committee to determine the precise amount of the annual pecuniary losses sustained by the "river planters and farmers" in the west, in consequence of these overflows. Could that amount be ascertained, it is believed that it would not fall far, if anything, short of the vast amount annually sustained by commerce in the losses consequent upon wreck and disaster on the western waters and the Atlantic coast, together.

To lessen this liability to loss on the Atlantic seaboard, a range of light-houses has been built, kept in repair, and lighted, at an annual charge, averaging, it is believed, not less than \$50,000 since the formation of the government. Add to this the estimate of about \$350,000, which have been paid out of the public treasury, annually, for the last fourteen years, on account of the *Coast Survey*, and we have the gross aggregate, under those two heads alone, of about \$6,500,000, which have been expended by the government, for the purpose of lessening the liability to loss upon the surplus produce of the soil, after it has left the keeping of the husbandman who produced it, and carried into other hands, *where the water is salt*.

In making out this aggregate for salt water expenditures, there are included in the account of the *Coast Survey*, not merely the direct appropriations for that work, but the amount of other sums that are fairly chargeable to it, and which exceed those appropriations in amount. Among these, is the pay of several hundred sailors and officers who are engaged on that work, and who are paid and subsisted out of the appropriations for the Navy and Army. This last is exclusive of the cost of vessels, their outfits and repairs, which are furnished by the Navy or Treasury Department, and the cost of neither of which appears as a part of the expenses of the *Coast Survey*, although making up the greater portion of those expenses, and properly chargeable to it.

The vessels employed in the *Coast Survey* are some *twelve* in number; employing, in their management, about 200 officers and men. The necessary expense of such a force, drawn from the navy and army appropriation, and added to the specific appropriation for the *Coast Survey*, will, it is believed, make up an aggregate annual charge upon the treasury, at least equal to the amount assumed, that is, \$350,000, for the coast survey alone.

Allusion is here made to these objects of expenditure, not with any invidious aim, or sectional view, but solely for the purpose of showing the liberality of the hand with which both the government and the people are disposed to deal out for these objects, which are

clearly constitutional in their character, national in their bearings, and beneficial in their results.

Your committee, therefore, will now present a few points, viewed from which the reclamation of the lands subject to overflow will appear equally constitutional in its character, national in its bearings, and beneficial in its results.

It is not only the policy of the general government, but it is, also, its implied and acknowledged duty to dispose of its public lands on *some* terms, for actual settlement. With regard, however, to its lands which are subject to overflow, this policy cannot be carried out, nor this duty performed, until such lands be first reclaimed. So long as they remain in their present condition, they cannot be sold, cannot be disposed of. In this condition, they are not only profitless to the world, but they are a source of evil to the people in their vicinity, and even a loss to the government; scattering fruitful seeds of disease and death in their neighborhood, sending forth miasmatic exhalations to depopulate the country, and lessen the value, to the government, as well as to individual proprietors, of the otherwise good lands which border upon them. Their reclamation, therefore, may be regarded, from this point of view, as both national in its bearings and beneficial in its results. It would, certainly, do much to promote the general welfare.

In his last official report, November 30, 1847, the Commissioner of the General Land Office makes the following suggestions:

"That those refuse or unsaleable lands be granted to the States in which they lie, at stated periods of time, after they have remained in market unsold, or when they shall become so far diminished in quantity as not to justify the delay and expense of selling them by the general government. Such a measure would seem to be peculiarly proper at this time, in regard to such swamp and other lands as are, from local causes, unfit for settlement and cultivation in their present condition, in order that such portions of them as may be reclaimed for useful purposes, may be made productive and available to such States for the purposes of education, internal improvement, and such other public uses as those States may, in their wisdom, deem best calculated to advance their own peculiar interests." [*Senate Document No. 2, page 32, 1st session 30th Congress*]

Again: The special committee, to whom was referred the memorial of the Memphis convention, in their very able and lucid report, June 26, 1846, speak as follows:

"Your committee will next proceed to the consideration of that portion of the memorial which relates to the reclaiming, by embankments, the public lands which, in consequence of being subject to inundations, are not fit for cultivation.

"The subject is one of no small importance. The Mississippi, like most of the other great rivers, has formed, by its deposits in the long course of years, a tract of great extent and fertility, in its approach to the ocean, and which is subject to inundations by its floods.

"There are no data by which the extent of this tract can be ascertained with any accuracy. But it is estimated, from the best

attainable data, by the proper department, to contain about 33,075,000 acres, or 51,670 square miles, lying in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois.

"It is believed by far the greater part may be reclaimed by a proper system of embankment. It is more difficult to estimate, with any precision, what portion of it is still public land. They have not been able to obtain any document that may be relied on as approaching accuracy, in that respect, except in reference to that portion of the tract lying in the State of Louisiana.*

"It appears by a report of the surveyor general of that State, made in October, 1845, that there is of overflowed and swamp land in that State, 8,505,505 acres, of which there are subject to private land claims, 798,763 acres; granted for schools and other purposes 378,743; sold prior to the 30th of September of that year, 1,635,458; and unsold or public lands, 5,692,836; making nearly three-quarters of the whole. Assuming the same proportion to remain unsold in the other States, the aggregate amount still belonging to the public would be 24,850,000 acres."

"As fertile as this great body of land is, by far the greater portion is, at present, of little or no value, in consequence of its swampy character and being subject to inundation, and must remain so; alike unprofitable to the public and individuals, so long as they remain in their present condition. But they must remain so until reclaimed by embankments. To meet the expense of making them, the convention recommend the grant of lands, or appropriation of money by Congress.

"Your committee are of the opinion that something ought to be done towards bringing this great body of fertile land into cultivation. While it remains in its present state, with one, and that the larger portion, held by the United States, another (that granted for schools and other purposes) by the States, and a third by individuals, and these several portions not held in parcels or bodies, separate and distinct from each other, but intermixed one with the other, nothing can well be done towards reclaiming them. It would require the co-operation of the parties interested, each in proportion to the extent of his interest, to accomplish the object. To obtain such co-operation, and fix satisfactorily the amount that each should contribute towards making the necessary embankments, would obviously be a work of too much difficulty and complication to be undertaken. The only remedy is to diminish the number of the parties interested; and for that purpose, your committee are of opinion that Congress ought to adopt measures to dispose of its portion of these lands, with as little delay as a just regard to the public interests will permit." [*Senate Document, No. 408, pages 23 and 24, 1st session, 29th Congress.*]

It is, obviously, a duty which the general government owes to the States that are burdened with these lands, to cause them, if that

* Since this report was made, the Surveyors General of other States have sent in reports of a similar character with the one from Louisiana; that from Arkansas, up to January 1. 1848, as quoted on the 1st page and annexed to, and made part of, the present report.]

be practicable by any legitimate means, to be rendered fit for cultivation. Sound policy and justice alike demand it.

The power of the general government to execute the proposed work of reclaiming these inundated lands, demands some consideration. That this, as a general power, attaches to the government as a land proprietor, will, it is believed, be admitted by all. The propriety of its exercise, within prudent limits, will be as readily admitted; for without it, the land system could not be administered at all; while with it, in the liberal donation of large quantities, on conditions, the consequent value (even as a matter of pecuniary gain) of the part remaining to the government, is made to exceed, often in a ten-fold degree, the prior value of the whole. The instances in which the general government has acted from considerations of this kind, are numerous and well known. They are found in the liberal donations so often granted for purposes of education, and various works of internal improvement, in the several States. It is only as to the *manner* of its exercise, that any serious difference of opinion is likely to arise in regard to this power. As a general rule, your committee hold it to be sound policy that the general government shall not engage *directly* in the execution of works of internal improvement. With those who set much value upon the independence of the several States, and desire to restrict the general government within the safe and salutary bounds designed for it, at the time of its creation, it is held to be very desirable to avoid, as far as may be practicable, any immediate contact between the general government and the individual citizen; and, within the same limitation, to let the people know and feel their relations to the general government through the medium of their respective State governments.

The value of this doctrine derives daily increase; indeed, the necessity of its maintenance is proven from the rapid extension of our territory, and the corresponding progress of our institutions. Except, therefore, in cases where State authority, or individual enterprise, shall be found wholly incompetent to the execution of a public work, that is, yet, necessary to the public good, the direct agency of the general government should never be invoked, nor even permitted. Such works as are here excepted are those involving our relations with foreign countries, the establishment and conduct of our post office system, the construction of military highways, (whether by land or water,) and the regulation of "commerce among the several States, and with the Indian tribes." When fairly considered, these embrace all that it seems necessary and proper, and that may be deemed safe for the general government to do, in the construction of public works, by which it may be brought in direct contact with the individual citizen, or allowed the exercise of authority within the limits of any one of the States. Within this exception, very properly, and necessarily, come improvements of the navigation of our great western rivers and lakes, which extend along, and among several States, and even of such, though less extensive, as lead to, and are natural and proper channels of communication with, our military posts and national de-

fences. Within it, likewise, are embraced the requisite routes, by land, for the connexion of our Atlantic and Pacific frontiers with each other, and with our "inland seas." Your committee repeat, all such works as these are within the constitutional power of the general government, and may safely and properly be constructed by its direct agency; because they are necessary to the public good, are national in their character, and, on account of their extent and magnitude, are beyond the reach of accomplishment by either State authority or individual enterprise.

But such a work as the reclamation of these overflowed lands within a State, as is proposed by the bill upon which this report is based, is *not* within the exception just considered. It is free from any constitutional obstacle to its execution by the direct agency of the general government, for the reasons already given; yet, inasmuch as it is entirely within the compass of State authority, especially through the wholesome agency of individual enterprise, it comes within the rule of safety and propriety, that this authority, combined with this agency, should, alone, be required to execute the work, to the exclusion of any direct participation of the general government.

The *practicability* of the proposed work is almost self-evident. Vast as it is in extent, and even more vast in importance, the materials for its construction are at hand. They are in the very foundations on which it is to rest, and along the whole line of its extent; while the capital and labor to be engaged in its execution anxiously await the opportunity for investment. That it is entirely practicable, there is concurrent testimony of the highest character, furnished, alike, in the opinions of intelligent practical men, who have given much attention to the subject, and in the actual existence of works of a similar character, successfully accomplished and kept up, under circumstances of far greater difficulty and discouragement. Holland is a country which has, almost entirely, been reclaimed from the sea and the floods. Her past and present condition affords, in contrast, a complete demonstration in point. From uninhabitable marshes and bogs, liable to constant inundation, she has been converted into the very garden of Europe; even now, lying, as she does, much below the level of the waters on her margin, *secure within her embankments*. North Carolina has reclaimed from her swamps many valuable tracts of land. Even if other proof were wanting, what instances of a stronger kind, or more interesting character, though limited in extent, yet directly in point, could be desired than the embankments raised by individual planters themselves, which, in some degree, and during some seasons, protect their fields from overflow? Indeed, what is the proposed work but these very embankments on an extended scale—their extension so as to embrace the whole line of our overflowing rivers, and secure all our lands from overflow? That such a work is not only practicable, but that its utility, and the elements of its practicability, are augmented in the ratio of its extent, is well established, in works identical in character, by the State of Louisiana. What were the best lands of that State—"the Coast,"

as it is called—prior to the systematic and extensive construction of her levées? What would they have been with only a few miles of levées, made here and there by an occasional planter? Uninhabitable swamps, pestilential marshes; profitless to the visionary speculator who undertook their cultivation, and scarcely less fatal, as a dwelling place, than the Roman Campagna, to the unfortunates who were doomed, or the misguided who ventured, to reside within their midst, or near them! What are they now? It is but truth to say that a more valuable tract of country, a more fertile soil, or a more lovely and attractive scene of agricultural prosperity, is not to be found upon our broad continent, than is presented by these once pestilential marshes, but now smiling fields! *Secure within their embankments*, they bid defiance even to the great “father of waters;” and say to his mighty tide, as it rolls in tributary majesty along their shores, “thus far shalt thou come, and no farther!” It may not be inappropriate to add in this place, that, with other improvements, the healthfulness of the country embraced and influenced by these reclaimed lands, has been fully commensurate with its rapid and valuable development of all the other elements of agricultural and social advancement. Reason, observation, and the highest scientific authority, warrant the assertion that the reclaimed lands in question comprise the most healthful region of the whole southwestern country. That such would be the happy effects of a similar work upon the inundated lands of the other States, there can exist no doubt.

Improvements of the navigation of the western waters has been, and for an indefinite period to come, is likely to be a vexed question with the general government. After much reflection, your committee are of opinion that the proposed reclamation of these overflowed lands, by a comprehensive system of embankments, would do more towards permanently improving the navigation on the Mississippi and its tributaries, than all that has yet been accomplished or proposed in any other way. This opinion is founded, in part, upon the following facts and considerations:

As the country which is drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries is brought into cultivation, the forests, the undergrowth, and the lighter covering of vegetation, which before protected the soil on the hill-sides and declivities from wash by the rains, are removed; the bare earth is loosened by the plow, and every furrow becomes in a heavy rain a channel for collecting and accumulating this wash, which is borne thence from streamlet to streamlet and from tributary to tributary until it reaches the main stream in the shape of mud and sand. From source to mouth this matter is in the continued process of deposit, on the bottom of the stream, in the shape of sediment. The more sluggish the stream, the greater the amount of deposit. After every rain, which sends turbid waters into the Mississippi, the bed of that river may be said to be raised up, and to stand at a higher level than it did before; not appreciably higher, it may be, after any single freshet, but not the less certain is its gradual rise from this source. The process is slow; but like the constant operation of geological agencies, and other

gentle causes, in the unceasing and tireless hand of nature, the effect becomes obvious in the course of years.

The bed of the river Po is said to have been raised by the deposit of silt, until its level is above that of the plains through which the stream flows; its waters being confined in their channels by embankments, commenced by the Etruscans, and gradually raised to keep pace with the gradual, but steady elevation of the stream. The effect of the gradual raising up of the bed of a river is strongly marked in the Potomac, near this city. Former records tell of deep and capacious channels, where now are broad and shallow banks. There is evidence, clear and unmistakable, that this process is going on in the Mississippi river. The planter on its bank discovers that the levee which he threw up, a few years ago, to confine the river to its channel, is now no longer sufficient to keep the waters in; and, every few years, he finds it necessary to throw up more earth, and raise his embankment higher, to prevent an overflow. The singularly shaped tongue of land which projects out into the Gulf of Mexico, for many miles, with apparently just breadth enough to form banks to the river, is another striking instance in point. Here is a sort of alluvial trough which has been formed of matter drifted down, and through which the Mississippi now finds its way to the ocean. It is the opinion of geologists and men of science, who have examined the subject, that this tongue of land was carried there by the river, in the shape of drifts and sediment; and that it has been raised up from the bottom of the Gulf, by the deposits which have thus been made in the progress of ages. The turbid waters which are brought down by freshets in the James and Rappahannock rivers, never carry the mud they suspend to the ocean. It is well known that these rivers are filling up, and the chief cause is the elevation of their beds by the deposition of silt.

As the bed of a river is elevated, from whatever cause, the more liable are the lands on its banks to overflow, and the more difficult does navigation become. It cannot admit of doubt, that the navigation of the western waters, like that of the eastern, is injured from this cause. Indeed, the more yielding banks and bottoms, and the heavier floods of the western rivers, greatly aggravate this injury, by inducing a more abundant and rapid deposition of sediment, alike of sand, mud, and drifts; and especially by effecting this in a manner so sudden and irregular as to defy anticipation, and often to defeat entirely the most prudent arrangements, and disappoint the best directed efforts of skill.

This injury, its serious character, and great extent, and that it will go on increasing, must be obvious to all who regard the relations between cause and effect. The quantity of overflowed and drowned lands, on the Mississippi and its tributaries, exclusive of that in Kentucky and Tennessee, is estimated at 33,000,000 of acres. This is an immense evaporating surface. In shallow basins such as these present, the water stands at a high temperature, and evaporation, therefore, goes on much more rapidly than in the running stream. The quantity of water thus taken up, by the air,

from 33,000,000 of acres, added to the quantity absorbed by the earth, through a surface so immense, can scarcely be less than the quantity discharged by the river, itself, into the ocean. What, then, would be the effect of confining these waters within the banks of the river? Is it not obvious that it would make the current both stronger and deeper?—stronger to keep up the discharge, and deeper to contain the increased column.

This view is sustained, likewise, by the results of the grand experiment referred to, which has already been made upon the very river in question. The effect here anticipated, from the operation of the natural laws, has actually been produced by similar works already constructed. The memorial of the Memphis convention, of 1845, before alluded to, presents facts in this connexion, which are conclusive. That memorial says:

“The expenditures on the Mississippi thus far, if reports are to be credited, have produced no results corresponding to the vast amounts appropriated. Where the channel has been straightened at one point, it has been lengthened at another, and obstructions or deposits in one bend have only been transferred in their removal to another. * * * * * The only fact clearly established—and it is one to which attention should be particularly directed, as bearing, with peculiar influence, on the proposition submitted—is, that where the banks of the Mississippi have been leveed, and prevented from inundating the swamps, the spring rises are scarcely perceptible, and the surplus waters are discharged by *deepening the bed*; its currents, no longer able to rise and expand over a wider surface, they have to deepen the bed to furnish vent for the waters to be discharged. This is particularly the characteristic of the river below Natchez, the highest point of continued embankments. The river from thence to its mouth is comparatively uninterrupted, and presents few or no sand bars obstructing its navigation. Opposite New Orleans its depth is very great; and, as the city authorities encroach on the river, it either deepens its bed or cuts from the opposite shore. The reclaiming, therefore, the swamps, and confining the river to its bed, will deepen it, and do more to preserve, unimpaired, the navigation of the Mississippi than all the projects which have hitherto been devised or acted on for its improvement. * * * * * The swamps of the Mississippi, now worthless, and made so by the inundations of that river, may be made, by their own reclamation, the instruments of improving the navigation of that stream.” [Senate document No. 410, p. 38, June 26, 1846, 1st session, 29th Congress.]

By preventing these overflows, therefore, there is good and sufficient reason, founded on philosophical principles, and on experiment, to believe that the channel of the rivers would be deepened—that snags would be rooted up and carried off—that sand bars would be cut away, where they existed, and their future formation prevented, and, as most beneficial consequences, that pilotage would be made more certain, navigation more sure, commerce more safe, shipwreck and disaster more rare.

All these are objects greatly to be desired; and most of them

are among those, to effect and accomplish which, the States bound themselves together in federal compact. While, to these may be added others already alluded to, and surely not less important, to be found in the improved agriculture of the country, the augmented moral and social strength of a people, rendered secure in the tenure and enjoyment of their property, certain in the receipts of the rewards of their industry, and sound in their health.

The drowned lands in the State of Arkansas, alone, as shown by the official map and statements, annexed to, and made part of, this report, comprise about 5,000,000 of acres, as already stated. It is well known that these drowned lands, though now worthless, are, when reclaimed, the richest and best lands in the richest and best of countries.

The best sugar and cotton lands in Louisiana are those which have been reclaimed from swamps and marshes, overflows and floods. Let it be supposed that only one-half of these lands in Arkansas may be permanently reclaimed; though it is believed that the proportion may certainly be increased to four-fifths. But let it be supposed that only one-half can be reclaimed. There would then be reclaimed, in that State alone, a quantity of land more than sufficient to produce the whole cotton crop of the United States. Owing to its excellent quality and favorable location, this land would be speedily brought into market, be readily sold and brought into cultivation, and so add, almost incalculably, to the wealth of the country, and the general welfare.

Almost the whole of these overflowed lands lie along regions the most genial in climate, and the most favorable to the production of the great agricultural staples of the country. Thirty-three millions of acres, or even one-half of that quantity, reclaimed for agriculture, and planted in sugar, cotton, rice, corn, hemp, wheat, and tobacco, would add an amount of wealth to the national resources, the greatness of which it is difficult to estimate. As already shown, the reclaiming of these lands would improve the health of the regions in which they lie; they would support a population of several millions of inhabitants; they would add value to the already good lands which border and surround them, and contribute millions to the wealth of the nation. If brought together in a body, they would far exceed in extent of territory, as they do in fertility of soil, the arable area of the united kingdom of Great Britain. Whereas, by leaving them as they are, they retard the general prosperity; they, in a manner, prevent the general welfare and answer no useful purpose whatever. By reclaiming them, the government would derive, in addition to the other important considerations already presented, the right to tax the people they support, and forever receive revenue from them and their substance. This right is of far more value than the lands themselves would be, estimated at their market price, if already reclaimed; but unless they be reclaimed, both this right and the lands are alike valueless.

Your committee have endeavored, and, they think, successfully, to establish the following points:

1st. That a very large quantity of the public land, in the western

States, is, on account of the overflowing of the rivers, entirely unsaleable and valueless to the general government, and seriously injurious, in its present condition, to the States, and people where they lie.

2d. That if these lands were reclaimed from overflow, they would become immensely valuable, alike for agricultural purposes, for the improvement of navigation, the extension of commerce, and the removal of disease.

3d. That the reclaiming of these lands by embankments along the banks of the rivers, is entirely practicable.

4th. That it is the duty of the general government to adopt, at an early day, some plan to effect these desirable objects.

5th. That, although the general government has the constitutional power to engage directly in the reclamation of the overflowed lands, it is safer, better, and more proper that the execution of this work should be committed to the governments of the several States within which the lands lie.

Your committee, therefore, recommend that, in order to accomplish these desirable objects, the bill, herewith reported, be passed, as a substitute for the bill (S. 253) which was referred to the committee.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, June 5, 1848.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I send you the enclosed statement, showing the condition of the public lands in the State of Arkansas, by land districts and in aggregate, up to 1st January, 1848.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICHARD M. YOUNG,
Commissioner.

Hon. S. BORLAND, U. S. Senate.

ARKANSAS.

Statement showing the condition of the public lands in the State of Arkansas, by land districts and in aggregate, up to January 1, 1848.

Land districts.	Total area in square miles.	Total area in acres.	Surveyed.	Unsurveyed.	Preclaimed for sale.	Sold.	Amount of money received.	Average per acre.	Donations and grants.							Reservations.				Private claims.		Area of swamp lands.	Area of swamp surveyed, unsurveyed, and unsold.
									Common schools.	Universities, colleges, and seminaries.	Deaf and dumb asylums.	Internal improvements.	Selected, located and approved.	To be selected, located, and approved.	Military bounties for services in the late war.	Salines.	Military.	Choctaw locations.	Grants of all other kinds.	Confirmed.	Unconfirmed.		
Batesville.....	12,801	8,192,625.99	Acres. 7,811,955.79	Acres. 380,670.00	Acres. 7,478,053.22	Acres. 270,323.05	\$337,892.48	.....	Acres. 206,619.04	Acres. 5,644.44	Acres.	Acres.	Acres. 25,337.52	Acres.	Acres. 476,056.93	Acres. 3,372.35	Acres.	Acres. 1,230.00	Acres. 9,308.48	Acres. 5,385.57	Acres.	Acres. 1,434,296	Acres. 6,474,725.84
Little Rock.....	8,295	5,308,539.98	5,145,507.98	163,032.00	5,062,211.39	458,305.40	576,331.15	.....	139,252.34	7,714.41	.....	.....	195,036.48	.....	413,164.44	.....	.....	5,599.89	624.51	63,101.21	.....	810,769	3,780,409.71
Washington.....	8,498	5,438,885.82	5,358,245.82	80,640.00	5,059,743.17	630,855.44	809,808.42	.....	140,576.12	640.00	.....	.....	85,157.94	.....	160.00	31,168.49	12,207.00	610.00	7,977.29	2,077.28	.....	420,961	4,160,490.61
Fayetteville.....	5,621	3,597,223.53	3,516,583.53	80,640.00	2,886,643.57	233,608.20	292,744.04	.....	82,136.10	.....	2,297.30	.....	11,525.74	.....	160.00	.....	.....	1,400.00	4,295.75	.....	.....	2,541,310.73	.....
Helena.....	6,217	3,985,384.11	3,557,635.11	427,749.00	3,052,748.17	796,653.01	995,832.28	.....	83,730.75	188.50	.....	.....	85,566.82	.....	188,984.20	.....	.....	9,042.09	90,533.61	42,884.06	.....	1,715,926	1,752,562.64
Johnson C. H.....	5,911	3,783,278.58	3,743,414.58	34,864.00	3,554,823.42	270,109.22	337,688.99	.....	99,266.96	19,579.87	.....	.....	27,578.42	.....	319.74	10,491.76	.....	2,080.00	33,645.54	.....	.....	3,091,754.91	.....
Champagnole.....	4,845	3,100,540.31	3,016,420.31	84,120.00	2,881,981.76	215,635.63	269,871.55	.....	80,327.00	.....	.....	.....	32,981.77	.....	.....	.....	.....	31,965.23	.....	.....	.....	425,721	2,521,022.03
Total.....	52,198	33,406,478.32	32,154,763.12	1,251,715.00	29,982,204.70	2,875,510.03	3,620,163.91	\$1 25.89	831,908.21	34,067.38	2,297.30	500,000.00	463,184.69	36,815.31	1,078,845.31	45,032.60	12,207.00	52,007.21	146,390.13	118,451.12	*3,014,521.00	4,807,673	21,322,273.57

* This quantity is exclusive of that portion of the Claimorgan claim lying within this State.

A statement showing the quantity of swamp lands unfit for cultivation in each land district of the State of Arkansas, computed from the surveys of the public lands, to answer the instructions of the General Land Office of May 3, 1847.

LAWRENCE COUNTY LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Batesville.

North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 1 east.	No. of acres.	Range 2 east.	No. of acres.	Range 3 east.
Township 1.....	15,450	Wet and overflow.....	11,760	Wet and swamp.....		
2.....	8,300	do.....	17,200	do.....		
3.....	3,360	do.....	10,560	do.....		
4.....	6,720	do.....	16,480	do.....		
5.....	6,800	do.....	16,252	do.....		
6.....	17,988	do.....	640	do.....		
7.....	5,600	do.....	14,538	do.....		
8.....	15,580	do.....	21,560	do.....		
9.....	11,340	do.....	5,280	do.....		
10.....						
11.....	23,372	Wet and swamp.....			15,472	Wet, swamp, and overflow..
12.....	21,907	do.....	8,880	Wet, swamp, and overflow..	18,931	do.....do.....
13.....	20,120	do.....	9,840	do.....do.....		
14.....	22,120	do.....	8,620	do.....do.....	800	Swamp and overflow.....
15.....	21,440	do.....			4,820	do.....
16.....	10,280	do.....			10,060	do.....
17.....	9,600	do.....	17,153	Wet and swamp.....	17,657	do.....
18.....			640	do.....	7,280	do.....
19.....	449	Overflow.....	6,420	Overflow.....	13,360	do.....
20.....	800	Wet and swamp.....	1,280	Swamp and overflow.....	11,140	do.....
21.....					16,920	do.....
	221,226		167,103		116,440	

STATEMENT—Continued.

LAWRENCE COUNTY LAND DISTRICT.

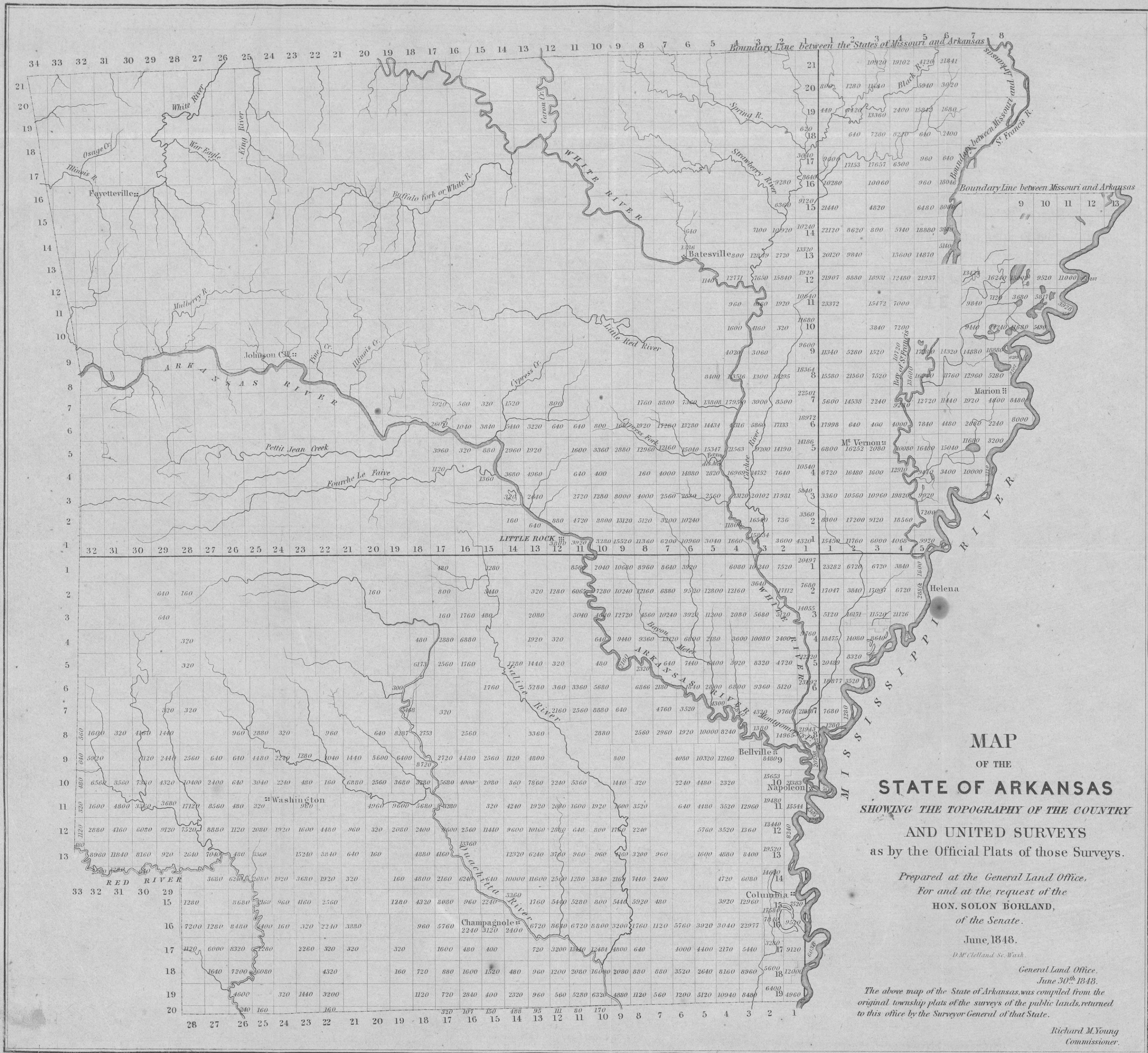
Land office at Batesville.

North of the base line.	No. of acres	Range 4 east.	No. of acres.	Range 5 east.	No. of acres.	Range 6 east.
Township 1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						
11.	7,000	Overflow				
12.	12,480	Swamp and overflow	21,937	Overflow		
13.	13,600	do. do.	14,870	Swamp and overflow	5,140	Swamp and overflow
14.	5,740	Swamp	18,880	Swamp	3,960	do. do.
15.			6,480	do.	8,080	do. do.
16.			960	do.	18,046	do. do.
17.	6,500	do.	960	do.	640	Swamp
18.	8,240	Swamp and overflow	640	do.	2,400	do.
19.	2,400	do. do.	15,842	Swamp and overflow	1,680	Overflow and swamp
20.			5,940	do. do.	3,020	do. do.
21.	19,102	Swamp	4,120	do. do.	21,841	Wet
	75,062		90,629		64,807	Total.....735,267

STATEMENT—Continued.
LAWRENCE COUNTY LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Batesville.

North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 1 west.	No. of acres.	Range 2 west.	No. of acres.	Range 3 west.
Township 1.....	4,320	Swamp	3,600	Swamp	15,834	Swamp and overflow
2.....	3,360	do.	7,360	do.	16,540	Overflow
3.....	5,840	do.	17,981	do.	20,102	Swamp and overflow
4.....	10,540	do.	7,640	Swamp and overflow	14,752	do. do.
5.....	14,186	Swamp and overflow	14,190	do. do.	9,200	do. do.
6.....	18,972	Swamp	17,133	Swamp	5,860	do. do.
7.....	22,501	Swamp and overflow	8,500	do.	3,900	Swamp
8.....	18,364	do. do.	16,295	Swamp and overflow	1,300	do.
9.....	9,600	Swamp			3,060	Swamp and overflow
10.....	11,680	Swamp and overflow	320	Swamp	4,160	do. do.
11.....	10,640	do. do.	1,920	do.	6,160	do. do.
12.....	1,920	Swamp	15,840	do.	7,650	do. do.
13.....	12,320	do.	2,720	do.	12,879	do. do.
14.....	10,240	do.	10,920	Swamp and overflow	7,100	do. do.
15.....	9,120	do.	6,360	do. do.		
16.....	8,640	do.	9,280	Swamp		
17.....	3,040	Swamp and overflow				
18.....	620	Swamp				
	175,903		140,059		128,497	



MAP
OF THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS
SHOWING THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTRY
AND UNITED SURVEYS
as by the Official Plats of those Surveys.

Prepared at the General Land Office,
For and at the request of the
HON. SOLON BORLAND,
of the Senate.
June, 1848.

General Land Office.
June 30th 1848.
The above map of the State of Arkansas, was compiled from the
original township plats of the surveys of the public lands, returned
to this office by the Surveyor General of that State.
Richard M. Young
Commissioner.

STATEMENT—Continued.

LAWRENCE COUNTY LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Batesville.

North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 4 west.	No. of acres.	Range 5 west.	No. of acres.	Range 6 west.
Township 1.....	1,660	Overflow.....	3,040	Swamp.....		
2.....	11,800	..do.....		..do.....		
3.....	13,120	Swamp and overflow.....	2,560	Overflow.....		
4.....	16,969	..do.....do.....	2,820	Swamp and overflow.....		
5.....	21,563	Overflow.....	15,347	..do.....do.....		
6.....	4,316	..do.....	14,434	..do.....do.....		
7.....	17,950	..do.....	13,808	..do.....do.....		
8.....	13,516	..do.....	8,400	Swamp.....		
9.....	4,020	Swamp and overflow.....		..do.....		
10.....	1,600	..do.....do.....		..do.....		
11.....	960	Swamp.....		..do.....		
12.....	12,771	Swamp and overflow.....	1,140	Swamp and overflow.....		
13.....	800	Swamp.....			1,336	Swamp and overflow.....
14.....						
15.....					640	Overflow in township 13 north, and range 7 west.....
16.....						
17.....						
18.....						
	121,045		61,549		1,976	Total.....629,029

Total acres.....1,364,296.

STATEMENT—Continued.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Little Rock.

North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 6 west.	No. of acres.	Range 7 west.	No. of acres.	Range 8 west.
Township 1.....	10,960	Wet, swamp and overflow ...	6,200	Wet and overflow.....	11,360	Wet.....
2.....	10,240	Wet and swampy.....	3,200	Wet.....	5,120	do.....
3.....	2,830	do.....	2,560	do.....	4,000	do.....
4.....	14,880	Wet.....	4,000	do.....	160	do.....
5.....	15,040	do.....	12,160	do.....	12,960	do.....
6.....	13,280	do.....	17,280	do.....	1,920	do.....
7.....	7,360	do.....	8,800	do.....	1,760	do.....
	74,590		54,200		37,280	

STATEMENT—Continued.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Little Rock.

North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 9 west.	No. of acres.	Range 10 west.	No. of acres.	Range 11 west.
Township 1.....	15,520	Wet.....	3,280	Wet and swamp.....	3,920	No description.....
2.....	13,120	..do.....	8,800	..do.....	4,720	Swamp and overflow.....
3.....	8,000	..do.....	1,280	Wet.....	2,720	Wet.....
4.....			400	..do.....	640	..do.....
5.....	2,880	Wet and overflow.....	3,360	..do.....	1,600	..do.....
6.....	18,160	Overflow.....	800	..do.....	640	..do.....
7.....						
	39,680		17,920		14,240	237,910

STATEMENT—Continued.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Little Rock.

North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 12 west.	No. of acres.	Range 13 west.	No. of acres.	Range 14 west.
Township 1.....	3,800	Wet and swamp.....				
2.....	880	Swamp.....	640	Swamp.....	160	Ponds.....
3.....			2,640	Wet and swamp.....	320	Wet.....
4.....			4,960	do.....	3,680	Wet and overflow.....
5.....			1,920	do.....	2,960	Wet and swamp.....
6.....	640	Swamp and overflow.....	3,220	do.....	5,440	do.....
7.....	800	Wet.....		do.....	1,520	do.....
	6,520		13,380		14,080	
Township 1.....						
North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 12 west.	No. of acres.	Range 13 west.	No. of acres.	Range 14 west.

Land office at Little Rock.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

STATEMENT—Continued.

STATEMENT—Continued.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Little Rock.

North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 15 west.	No. of acres.	Range 16 west.	No. of acres.	Range 17 west.
Township 1.....						
2.....						
3.....						
4.....	1,360	Swamp and overflow.....			1,120	Swamp.....
5.....	880	Swamp and wet.....	320	Wet.....	3,960	Wet and swamp.....
6.....	3,840	Wet and swamp.....	1,040	do.....	2,600	Swamp and overflow.....
7.....	320	Wet.....	560	do.....	7,920	Wet and swamp.....
	6,400		1,920		15,600	57,500

Total, north, 295,410.

STATEMENT—Continued.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Little Rock.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 3 west.	No. of acres.	Range 4 west.	No. of acres.	Range 5 west.
Township 1.....	10,240	Overflow and swamp.....	6,080	Swamp.....	12,800	Wet.....
2.....	3,640	do.....do.....	12,160	Swamp and wet.....	11,200	do.....
3.....	5,680	do.....do.....	2,080	Swamp.....	2,180	Wet and swamp.....
4.....	10,080	do.....do.....	3,600	Wet.....	6,400	Wet.....
5.....	8,320	do.....do.....	5,920	Wet and overflow.....	2,800	Overflow and wet.....
6.....	9,360	Swamp.....	6,800	Overflow and swamp.....	4,300	Overflow.....
7.....	4,320	Overflow and swamp.....	5,840	Overflow.....	10,000	Swamp and overflow.....
8.....	1,388	Overflow.....	8,240	Overflow and swamp.....	10,320	Wet and swamp.....
9.....			12,160	Overflow.....	4,480	do.....
10.....			2,320	do.....		
	53,028		65,200		64,480	

STATEMENT—Continued.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Little Rock.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 6 west.	No. of acres.	Range 7 west.	No. of acres.	Range 8 west.
Township 1.....	3,920	Wet, swamp, ponds.....	8,640	Wet and swamp.....	8,960	Wet and swamp.....
2.....	9,520	Wet and swamp.....	6,080	.....do.....	12,160	Wet, swamp, and overflow...
3.....	3,920	.....do.....	10,240	.....do.....	4,560	Wet.....
4.....	6,800	.....do.....	13,120	.....do.....	9,360	Wet, swamp, and overflow...
5.....	7,440	.....do.....	640	Swamp.....	2,320	Overflow and wet.....
6.....	1,840	Overflow and wet.....	2,180	Wet and overflow.....	6,866	Wet and overflow.....
7.....	3,520	.....do.....	1,760	Wet.....	10,320	Wet.....
8.....	1,920	.....do.....	2,960	Wet and swamp.....	2,560	Wet and swamp.....
9.....	4,080	.....do.....		.....do.....		Wet.....
10.....	2,240	Wet.....		.....do.....	320	Wet.....
	45,200		45,620		47,106	320,634

STATEMENT—Continued.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Little Rock.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 9 west.	No. of acres.	Range 10 west.	No. of acres.	Range 11 west.
Township 1.....	10,680	Overflow, wet and swamp...	2,040	Overflow and swamp.....	8,560	Overflow and swamp.....
2.....	10,240	.....do.....do.....	7,280	Overflow, wet and swamp...	6,065	Overflow, wet and swamp...
3.....	12,720	.....do.....do.....	4,640	.....do.....do.....	3,040	Wet and swamp.....
4.....	9,440	.....do.....do.....	640	Wet and swamp.....		
5.....	2,160	Overflow and wet.....	480	.....do.....		
6.....			5,680	Wet.....	3,360	Overflow and wet.....
7.....	640	.....do.....do.....	8,880	.....do.....	2,560	.....do.....do.....
8.....			2,880	.....do.....		
9.....	800	Wet.....				
10.....	1,440	Overflow and wet.....			5,360	Overflow, wet and swamp...
	48,120		32,520		28,945	

STATEMENT—Continued.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Little Rock.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 12 west.	No. of acres.	Range 13 west.	No. of acres.	Range 14 west.
Township 1.....						
2.....	1,280	Wet and swamp.....	320	Wet and swamp.....		
3.....			2,080	Wet.....		
4.....	320	Wet.....	1,920	do.....		
5.....	320	Wet and overflow.....	1,440	Wet and overflow.....	1,280	Wet.....
6.....	360	Wet.....	5,280	do.....		
7.....	2,160	Overflow, wet, and swamp...				
8.....			3,360	Wet.....		
9.....			4,800	Swamp and overflow.....	1,120	Wet.....
10.....	2,240	Overflow, wet, and swamp...	7,860	Overflow and wet.....	360	do.....
	6,680		27,060		2,760	146,085

STATEMENT—Continued.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Little Rock.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 15 west.	No. of acres.	Range 16 west.	No. of acres.	Range 17 west.
Township 1.....	1,280	Wet.....			480	Wet and overflow,.....
2.....	3,440	Wet and overflow.....			800	.....do.....
3.....	480	Wet.....	1,760	Wet.....	160	Wet.....
4.....			6,880	Wet and swamp.....	2,880	Wet, overflow, and swamp..
5.....			1,760	Wet.....	2,560	Wet and swamp.....
6.....	1,760	Wet.....			320	Wet.....
7.....			2,560	Wet.....		
8.....			4,480	do.....	2,720	Wet.....
9.....	2,560	Wet, swamp, and overflow..	4,000	Overflow and wet.....	5,680	Wet and overflow.....
10.....	2,080	Wet.....				
	11,600		21,440		15,600	48,640

Total, south, 810,769.

STATEMENT—Continued.

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Helena.

North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 3 east.	No. of acres.	Range 4 east.	No. of acres.	Range 5 east.
Township 1.....	6,000	Wet and swamp.....	4,068	Swamp and overflow.....	9,920	Swamp and overflow.....
2.....	9,120	Wet, swamp, and overflow...	18,560	.....do.....	7,200	.....do.....
3.....	10,960	Swamp and overflow.....	19,820	.....do.....	9,920	.....do.....
4.....	1,600	Wet and overflow.....	12,910	.....do.....	9,440	Wet and overflow.....
5.....	2,080	.....do.....	10,080	Wet, swamp, and overflow...	16,480	.....do.....
6.....	400	.....do.....	4,000	.....do.....	7,840	Wet.....
7.....	2,240	.....do.....	9,280	Wet and overflow.....	12,720	Wet, swamp, and overflow...
8.....	7,520	.....do.....	13,600	.....do.....	16,240	Wet and overflow.....
9.....	1,520	.....do.....	10,720	Wet, swamp, and overflow..	17,280	Swamp and overflow.....
10.....	3,840	Wet and swamp.....	7,200	Swamp and overflow.....		
11.....						
12.....						
	70,280		110,238		107,040	

Land office at Little Rock.

ARKANSAS LAND DISTRICT.

STATEMENT—Continued.

STATEMENT—Continued.

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT.

Land Office at Helena.

North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 6 east.	No. of acres.	Range 7 east.	No. of acres.	Range 8 east.
Township 1.....						
2.....						
3.....					640	Overflow.....
4.....	3,400	Lakes, ponds, and overflow...	10,000	Wet and overflow.....	2,720	do.....
5.....	15,040	Wet and swamp.....	11,680	Wet, swamp, and overflow ..	3,200	do.....
6.....	4,480	Wet.....	2,880	Wet.....	2,240	Wet and overflow.....
7.....	11,440	Swamp and overflow.....	1,920	Swamp.....	4,800	Swamp and overflow.....
8.....	11,760	Overflow.....	12,960	Swamp and overflow.....	5,280	Overflow.....
9.....	14,320	do.....	14,880	Wet and overflow.....	18,880	do.....
10.....			9,440	Wet.....	14,240	do.....
11.....			9,840	do.....	17,120	do.....
12.....			13,424	Swamp and overflow.....	16,240	do.....
	60,440		87,024		85,360	520,382

STATEMENT—Continued.

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Helena.

North of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 9 east.	No. of acres.	Range 10 east.	No. of acres.	Range 11 east.
Township 6.....	8,000	Wet, swamp, and overflow ..				
7.....	8,480	.....do.....				
8.....	3,707	Overflow and swamp.....				
9.....	6,293	.....do.....	305	Overflow.....	250	Overflow.....
10.....	11,680	Lakes, swamp, and overflow.	5,490	.....do.....	3,928	.....do.....
11.....	3,680	Swamp and overflow.....	5,817	Swamp and overflow.....	11,000	.....do.....
12.....	15,002	.....do.....	9,520	Overflow.....	2,880	.....do.....
13.....						
14.....						
	31,842		21,132		18,058	

STATEMENT—Continued.

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Helena.

North of the base line.		No. of acres.	Range 12 east.	No. of acres.	Range 13 east.
Township 6.....	112,214	93,471		46,552	
7.....	112,214				
8.....	112,214				
9.....	112,214				
10.....	112,214				
11.....	112,214				
12.....	112,214	257	Overflow.....		
13.....	112,214	1,349	do.....		
14.....	112,214	10,160	Wet, swamp, and overflow...	2,896	Swamp and overflow.....
		11,766		2,896	85,694
1.....	30,480	14,339	Overflow.....	5,420	Overflow.....
2.....	18,742	14,080	Swamp and overflow.....	2,840	do.....
3.....	3,150	18,131	Wet, swamp, and overflow.....	11,250	Swamp and overflow.....
4.....	11,041	3,240	Swamp.....	11,001	do.....
5.....	32,323	8,150	Wet.....	6,150	Swamp.....
South of the base line.		No. of acres.	Range 1 east.	No. of acres.	Range 2 east.

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT.

STATEMENT—Continued.

STATEMENT—Continued.

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 1 east.	No. of acres.	Range 2 east.	No. of acres.	Range 3 east.
Township 1.....	23,282	Nearly all under water.....	6,720	Wet.....	6,720	Swamp.....
2.....	17,047	Wet.....	3,840	Swamp.....	17,007	do.....
3.....	5,120	do.....	16,171	Wet, swamp, and overflow..	11,520	Swamp and overflow.....
4.....	18,475	Swamp and overflow.....	14,080	Swamp and overflow.....	8,640	do.....do.....
5.....	20,489	do.....do.....	8,320	Overflow.....	2,180	Overflow.....
6.....	13,877	do.....do.....	3,520	Swamp and overflow.....	160	.....
7.....	7,680	Overflow.....	1,280	Overflow.....	.....	.....
8.....	1,280	do.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
9.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
10.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
11.....	4,305	Overflow.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12.....	1,282	do.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
13.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
14.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
16.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17.....	6,038	Overflow.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	118,874		53,931		46,227	

STATEMENT—Continued.

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT.

South of the base line.		No. of acres.	Range 4 east.	No. of acres.	Range 5 east.
Township 1.....		3,840	Wet.....	1,600	Overflow
2.....		6,820	Swamp	2,880	Swamp and overflow.....
3.....		21,126	Swamp and overflow.....		
4.....		1,504	Overflow		
5.....					
6.....					
7.....					
8.....					
9.....					
10.....					
11.....					
12.....					
13.....					
14.....					
15.....					
16.....					
17.....					
		20,910		4,480	244,422.

STATEMENT—Continued.

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 1 west.	No. of acres.	Range 2 west.	No. of acres.	Range 3 west.
Township 1.....	20,497	Overflow.....	7,520	Wet and swamp.....		
2.....	7,680	Wet and swamp.....	17,112	Swamp and overflow.....		
3.....	14,055	Overflow and swamp.....	5,120	Overflow.....		
4.....	9,760	Overflow.....	2,400	Wet and swamp.....		
5.....	12,320	do.....	4,720	Overflow and swamp.....		
6.....	23,192	do.....	5,120	do.....do.....		
7.....	21,818	do.....	9,760	do.....do.....		
8.....	21,943	do.....	14,965	Overflow.....		
9.....	20,798	Swamp and overflow.....	8,480	Overflow and swamp.....		
10.....	21,383	do.....do.....	15,653	Overflow.....		
11.....	15,544	do.....do.....	19,480	Overflow and swamp.....	12,960	Overflow and swamp.....
12.....	8,240	Overflow.....	13,440	do.....do.....	1,360	Wet and swamp.....
13.....			19,520	Wet and swamp.....	8,400	do.....do.....
14.....			14,640	Overflow and swamp.....	6,080	do.....do.....
15.....	7,520	Overflow.....	17,580	Overflow.....	12,960	Overflow and swamp.....
16.....	9,520	Overflow, swamp, and wet.....	7,840	do.....	22,977	Overflow.....
17.....	9,120	Wet and swamp.....	3,280	Overflow and swamp.....	5,440	
18.....	12,000	Overflow.....	5,600	Wet and swamp.....	8,960	
19.....	4,960	do.....	6,400	Overflow and swamp.....	8,480	
	240,351		198,630		87,617	

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT

STATEMENT—Continued.

STATEMENT—Continued.

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT.

South of the base line.		No. of acres.	Range 4 west.	No. of acres.	Range 5 west.
Township	1.....				
	2.....				
	3.....				
	4.....				
	5.....				
	6.....				
	7.....				
	8.....				
	9.....				
	10.....				
	11.....	3,520	Wet and swamp.....	4,480	Wet and swamp.....
	12.....	3,520	Swamp.....	5,760	Swamp and overflow.....
	13.....	4,880	Wet and swamp.....	1,600	Wet and swamp.....
	14.....	4,720	Overflow and swamp.....		
	15.....	3,920	Swamp and wet.....		
	16.....	3,040	Wet and swamp.....	3,920	Swamp and overflow.....
	17.....	2,170	.....do.....	4,400	.....do.....do.....
	18.....	8,160	Swamp.....	2,640	Overflow.....
	19.....	10,940	Wet and swamp.....	5,120	Wet and swamp.....
		57,150		27,920	611,668.

Total acres, 1,462,166.

STATEMENT—Continued.

CHAMPAIGNOLE LAND DISTRICT

Land office at Champagnole.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 6 west.	No. of acres.	Range 7 west.	No. of acres.	Range 8 west.
Township 11....	640	Wet and swamp.....			3,520	Wet and overflow.....
12.....					2,240	Wet.....
13.....			960	Wet.....	3,200	do.....
14.....			2,400	Wet and overflow.....	7,440	do.....
15.....			480	Wet.....	5,920	Wet and overflow.....
16.....	5,760	Wet, swamp and overflow...	1,120	Swamp.....	1,760	Swamp and overflow.....
17.....	4,000	do.....do.....			640	Swamp.....
18.....	3,520	do.....do.....	880	Wet.....	880	Wet and swamp.....
19.....	1,280	Wet and overflow.....	560	Swamp.....	1,120	Wet.....
20.....						
	15,200		6,400		26,720	

MISSISSIPPI LAND DISTRICT

STATEMENT—Continued

STATEMENT—Continued.

CHAMPAGNOLE LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Champagnole.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 9 west.	No. of acres.	Range 10 west.	No. of acres.	Range 11 west.
Township 11.....	1,600	Wet and swamp.....	1,920	Wet.....	1,600	Wet and overflow.....
12.....	1,760	Overflow.....	800	do.....	640	do.....
13.....	4,160	do.....	960	do.....	960	do.....
14.....	2,160	do.....	3,840	Wet and overflow.....	1,280	Overflow.....
15.....	5,440	Wet, swamp, and overflow..	800	Wet.....	5,280	Wet and overflow.....
16.....	3,200	Swamp and overflow.....	8,800	Swamp and overflow.....	6,720	Swamp and overflow.....
17.....	4,800	do.....	12,480	Wet and overflow.....	13,440	Overflow.....
18.....	2,080	Wet and overflow.....	16,000	Overflow.....	2,080	Wet and overflow.....
19.....	4,880	Overflow.....	6,320	do.....	5,280	do.....
20.....			170	do.....	80	Wet.....
	30,080		52,090		37,360	167,850

STATEMENT—Continued.
CHAMPAGNOLE LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Champagnole.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 12 west.	No. of acres.	Range 13 west.	No. of acres.	Range 14 west.
Township 11.....	2,080	Wet and overflow.....	1,920	Wet and swamp.....	4,240	Wet.....
12.....	2,880	Wet and swamp.....	10,160	do.....	9,600	Wet and swamp.....
13.....	3,760	Overflow.....	6,240	Wet.....	12,320	Swamp.....
14.....	2,560	do.....	11,600	do.....	10,000	Wet and swamp.....
15.....	5,440	Swamp and overflow.....	1,760	do.....	3,360	Swamp and overflow.....
16.....	8,640	Wet and overflow.....	6,720	Wet and overflow.....	2,400	Overflow.....
17.....	3,200	do.....	720	Overflow.....		Wet.....
18.....	1,200	Wet.....	960	Wet.....	480	Wet.....
19.....	560	do.....	960	do.....	2,320	Swamp.....
20.....	111	do.....	95	Swamp.....	488	do.....
	30,431		41,135		45,208	

STATEMENT—Continued.
CHAMPAGNOLE LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Champagnole.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 15 west.	No. of acres.	Range 16 west.	No. of acres.	Range 17 west.
Township 11.....	320	Overflow.....			13,280	Wet, swamp, and overflow..
12.....	11,440	Wet and swamp.....	2,560	Wet and swamp.....	9,600	Wet and overflow.....
13.....			13,360	Swamp and overflow.....	4,160	Wet and swamp.....
14.....	640	Wet.....	6,240	Overflow.....	2,160	.....do.....
15.....	2,240	Swamp.....	960	.....do.....	8,080	.....do.....
16.....	3,120	.....do.....	2,240	Swamp.....	5,760	Wet.....
17.....	400	.....do.....	480	Wet.....	1,600	.....do.....
18.....	1,520	Wet.....	1,600	.....do.....	880	.....do.....
19.....	400	.....do.....	2,840	Wet and swamp.....	720	.....do.....
20.....	150	Overflow.....	107	Swamp.....	320	Swamp.....
	20,230		30,387		46,560	213,951

STATEMENT—Continued.

CHAMPAGNOLE LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Champagnole.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 18 west.	No. of acres.	Range 19 west.	No. of acres.	Range 20 west.
Township 11.....	5,680	Wet, swamp, and overflow...	9,600	Swamp and overflow.....	4,960	Wet and swamp.....
12.....	2,400	Swamp and overflow.....	2,080	.....do.....	320	Overflow.....
13.....	4,880	Wet.....		.....do.....	160	Wet.....
14.....	4,800	Wet and swamp.....	160	Overflow.....		
15.....	4,320	Wet, swamp, and overflow...	1,280	.....do.....		
16.....	960	Wet.....				
17.....			320	Wet.....		
18.....	720	Wet.....	160	Overflow.....		
19.....	1,120	.....do.....				
	24,880		13,600		5,440	43,920

Total acres..... 425,725.

STATEMENT—Continued.

RED RIVER LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Washington.

South of the base line.	No. of acres	Range 18 west.	No. of acres.	Range 19 west.	No. of acres.	Range 20 west.
Township 1.....						
2.....					160	Wet.....
3.....						
4.....	480	Overflow.....				
5.....	6,173	Wet and overflow.....				
6.....			300	Overflow.....		
7.....			5,468	Wet and overflow.....		
8.....	2,753	Wet and overflow.....	8,287	.....do.....	640	Wet.....
9.....	8,720	.....do.....	6,400	Wet and swamp.....	5,600	.....do.....
10.....	3,280	Overflow.....	3,680	Overflow and swamp.....	2,560	.....do.....
11.....						
12.....						
13.....						
14.....						
15.....						
16.....						
17.....						
18.....						
19.....						
20.....						
	21,406		24,135		8,960	

STATEMENT—Continued.

RED RIVER LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Washington.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 21 west.	No. of acres.	Range 22 west.	No. of acres.	Range 23 west.
Township 1.....						
2.....						
3.....						
4.....						
5.....						
6.....						
7.....						
8.....			960	Wet.....		
9.....	1,440	Wet.....	1,040	Swamp.....	1,280	Wet.....
10.....	6,880	Wet and overflow.....	160	do.....	480	Wet and swamp.....
11.....				do.....	960	Wet.....
12.....	960	Swamp.....	4,480	Overflow and swamp.....	1,600	Swamp.....
13.....	640	do.....	3,840	Swamp.....	15,240	do.....
14.....	320	Wet.....	1,920	Wet and swamp.....	3,680	do.....
15.....			2,560	Swamp and overflow.....	4,160	do.....
16.....	3,880	Wet.....	2,240	Wet and swamp.....	320	do.....
17.....	320	Overflow.....	320	Swamp.....	2,260	Wet.....
18.....			4,320	Wet and swamp.....		
19.....			3,200	Wet, swamp, and overflow..	1,440	Wet and swamp.....
20.....			160			
	14,440		25,200		31,420	125,561

STATEMENT—Continued.

RED RIVER LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Washington.

South of the base line.		Range 24 west.		Range 25 west.		Range 26 west.	
No. of acres.		No. of acres.		No. of acres.		No. of acres.	
Township 1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.	320	Wet.	2,880	Wet, swamp, and overflow.	960	Wet.	
9.	2,240	Overflow.	4,480	Wet and swamp.	640	do.	
10.	2,240	Wet and swamp.	3,040	Wet.	640	do.	
11.			320	do.	480	do.	
12.	1,920	Wet.	2,080	do.	1,120	do.	
13.			3,360	Swamp and overflow.	480	Overflow.	
14.	1,920	Swamp.	2,080	do.	6,240	Wet, swamp, and overflow.	
15.	960	Wet and swamp.	2,160	do.	8,680	Wet and overflow.	
16.	160	Overflow.	4,400	do.	8,480	Wet, swamp, and overflow.	
17.			1,280	Overflow.	8,320	Wet and overflow.	
18.			6,080	Wet, swamp, and overflow.	7,200	do.	
19.	320	Overflow.			4,600	do.	
20.			160	Wet.	240	do.	
	10,080		32,320		48,080		

STATEMENT—Continued.

RED RIVER LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Washington.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 27 west.	No. of acres.	Range 28 west.	No. of acres.	Range 29 west.
Township 1.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2.....	.....	.....	160	Wet.....	640	Wet.....
3.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	640	do.....
4.....	.....	.....	320	Wet.....	.....	.....
5.....	.....	.....	320	do.....	.....	.....
6.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7.....	.....	.....	320	Wet.....	320	Wet.....
8.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,440	Overflow.....
9.....	640	Wet.....	2,560	Wet and overflow.....	2,240	Wet and overflow.....
10.....	2,400	Wet and swamp.....	10,400	Wet, swamp and overflow...	4,320	Overflow.....
11.....	8,560	Wet and overflow.....	17,120	.....do.....do.....	3,690	Wet and overflow.....
12.....	8,880	.....do.....	7,520	.....do.....do.....	9,120	.....do.....
13.....	7,040	.....do.....	2,640	Overflow.....	920	Overflow.....
14.....	3,680	Wet and swamp.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15.....	.....	.....	1,280	Wet.....	.....	.....
16.....	1,280	Wet.....	7,200	Overflow.....	.....	.....
17.....	6,000	Wet and overflow.....	1,120	Wet and overflow.....	.....	.....
18.....	1,640	Overflow.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
19.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
20.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	40,120		50,960		23,320	204,880

STATEMENT—Continued.

RED RIVER LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Washington.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 30 west.	No. of acres.	Range 31 west.
Township 8.....	4,160	Wet and overflow	320	Wet.....
9.....	1,120	Overflow		
10.....	7,360	Wet and overflow	3,560	Wet and overflow.....
11.....	3,360	Wet.....	4,800	.....do.....
12.....	6,085	..do.....	4,160	.....do.....
13.....	8,160	..do.....	11,840	.....do.....
14.....	640	Overflow	1,280	Wet, swamp, and overflow...
	30,880		25,960	

STATEMENT—Continued.

RED RIVER LAND DISTRICT.

Land office at Washington.

South of the base line.	No. of acres.	Range 32 west.	No. of acres.	Range 33 west.
Township 8.....	1,600	Wet and overflow.....	560	Wet and overflow.....
9.....	5,920	do.....	640	do.....
10.....	6,560	do.....	480	do.....
11.....	1,600	Wet.....	320	Wet.....
12.....	2,880	do.....	1,120	do.....
13.....	8,960	Overflow.....	480	do.....
14.....	2,560	do.....		
	30,080		3,600	90,520

Total acres.....420,961.

RECAPITULATION.

No.	Land districts.	Land offices.	No. of acres.	Remarks.
1	Lawrence county..	Batesville.....	1,364,296	Wet lands, unfit for cultivation.
2	Fayetteville	Fayetteville.....		No wet lands here.
3	Johnson C. H.....	Clarksville		do do.
4	Arkansas.....	Little Rock	810,769	Wet lands, unfit for cultivation.
5	Mississippi	Helena.....	1,462,166	do do do.
6	Champagnole.....	Champagnole.....	425,721	do do do.
7	Red river.....	Washington.....	420,961	do do do.
	Total.....		4,483,913	

WM. PELHAM, *Surveyor of public lands in Arkansas.*
 SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, *Little Rock, Arkansas, October 13, 1847.*

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *June 30, 1848.*

I, Richard M. Young, Commissioner of the General Land Office, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the original on file in this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal of this office to be affixed, at the city of Washington, on the day and year above written.

[L. S.]

RICHARD M. YOUNG,
Commissioner of the General Land Office.

RECAPITULATION

Land districts.	Land offices.	No. of acres.	Remarks.
1 Lawrence county.	Batesville.	1,361,736	Well lands, suit for cultivation.
2 Fayetteville.	Fayetteville.		No well lands here.
3 Johnson C. H.	Clarksville.		do
4 Arkansas.	Little Rock.	210,769	Well lands, suit for cultivation.
5 Mississippi.	Holston.	1,462,706	do
6 Chattanooga.	Chattanooga.	423,721	do
7 Red river.	Washington.	428,981	do
Total.		1,428,913	

Surveyor's Office, Little Rock, Arkansas, October 19, 1847.
 WM. BELHAM, Surveyor of public lands, Arkansas.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, June 20, 1848.
 I, Richard M. Young, Commissioner of the General Land Office, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the original on file in this office.
 In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal of this office to be affixed, at the city of Washington, on the day and year above written.

RICHARD M. YOUNG,
 Commissioner of the General Land Office.